

Property-Wide Management Provisions

The following laws, policies, facilities, and other factors are some of the mandatory elements of the Preferred Alternative.

Easements, Access Permits, and Land Use Agreements:

Easements provide access across state property for utilities, town roads, or county highways. Easements are permanent and would continue to be upheld under the Preferred Alternative. Access Permits provide access across state property to private ownership within the forest boundary. Land use agreements provide for a variety of uses on state forest property, such as snowmobile trails and other recreational facilities open to the public. Land use agreements and Access Permits would continue to be evaluated periodically.

Funding Constraints:

The development of a property master plan is just the first step toward implementation of a management program on a Department property. The final master plan for the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest may contain a variety of new plans ranging from recreational facilities to ecological restoration. All management activities require funding, equipment and staffing to implement. If these new plans cannot be implemented with existing resources on the forest then new resources will need to be requested from the state legislature through the normal budget process. The ability to implement any master plan element will depend on the budgetary authorization granted to the Department of Natural Resources by the legislature.

Historical and Cultural Sites:

Management activities on the state forest will take into consideration historical sites and will not knowingly impact any features of historical or cultural importance. The Preferred Alternative meets the Property Goal (page 4) of identifying and protecting historic properties and areas of geological, archaeological, or cultural significance.

Municipal Jurisdiction within the NHAL State Forest:

The land acquisition moratorium areas around Sayner, St. Germain, Boulder Junction, Lake Tomahawk, and Manitowish Waters will continue to be honored. Areas within the proposed northern boundary expansion will be reserved for community development and not purchased by the state. There are numerous state, county, and town roads within the state forest boundary. These roadways will continue to be managed by the municipalities outside the scope of the NHAL Master Plan.

Non-Metallic Mining:

The use of state-owned land by municipalities for gravel pits and sand will continue on a case-by-case basis. All sand and gravel pits, soil borrow pits and other non-metallic mining sites now require permitting by local units of government with the enactment of NR135. Sites must be sited appropriately, operated in a sound environmental manner, and all disturbed areas must be reclaimed. Sand and gravel is used for road construction and maintenance on state forest and municipal roads.

Tribal Consultation and Enhancement of Treaty Resources:

The Preferred Alternative meets the Property Goal (page 4) of providing for the availability and enhancement of treaty resources in consultation with tribal governments. Treaty resources will be described in more detail in the Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Master Plan. In compliance with the Chippewa Treaty rights litigation and the Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 44, the WDNR consults with tribal governments during the development of master plans for state lands in the Ceded territory.